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Russell Pessimistic On Vietnam After CIA Briefing

WARLINKED TO STABILITY BY SENATOR

**'We Can't Win Unless'
Regime Is Firmer,
Georgian Says**

Viet denial of U.S. pressure expectedPage 2

Washington, Jan. 11 (AP)—Senator Russell (D., Ga.) said, after a briefing by the nation's top intelligence officer today, "we can't win the war in Vietnam" unless a more stable government is established in Saigon.

Russell talked with reporters briefly after John A. McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency was questioned for three hours and fifteen minutes by a blue-ribbon Senate committee.

Hearings Are Secret

Russell, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and of the Defense Appropriations subcommittee said "it is a miracle" that the South Vietnamese have carried on the war against the Viet Cong as well as they have. "With this changing chair government,"

"We can't win the war without getting a more stable government there," he added.

McCone testified before a joint meeting of the armed services and appropriations group at the start of closed hearings looking into the defense picture around the world, particularly in South Vietnam.

Russell said McCone reviewed the Communist military situation not only in Southeast Asia, but around the world.

"Very Little Hope"

"I heard nothing that would justify letting down our effort by one iota," he declared. He said he did not mean to imply that the United States is "letting down."

As for South Vietnam, Russell said the situation there "depends on getting a stable Government, the people that can respect and trust."

"Until we stop the revolving chair system there is very little hope of much progress. The situation worsens every time they have a coup and change their civil Government."

"Strongest On Earth"

Russell reported that nothing was said in the briefing "that leads me to believe we could let down our guard or in any way diminish our military effort in the theory the Soviet or the Communist complex was weakening," or because of the rift between the Soviets and the Red Chinese.

Russell expressed the view that the United States military striking force "is still the strongest on earth" but the problem is to keep it that way. He said he is not happy about reduction of the

United States manned bomber program.

Adversaries Working

"I would feel much better if we had not stopped our efforts to develop superior manned bombers," he added.

He said potential adversaries are working at least as hard as the United States to get a breakthrough and improve their anti-missile missile.

Sen. Mundt (R., S.D.) voiced belief the Administration tends to place too much emphasis on the development in South Vietnam of a democratic government modeled after what would be acceptable in the United States.

What is needed now, Mundt said, is "an authoritative, sound, broadly-based as possible government which has the will to win."

"I don't feel we can have free, democratic elections there at this particular juncture," Mundt said, "although that should be the long-term goal."

Russell was asked whether United States intelligence was aware of South Vietnamese coups before they occurred.

"We knew they were in the

works, and tried to prevent them," the Senator replied.

He said United States intelligence is not perfect anywhere, but "the CIA has done a very fine job."

Russell added there have been instances where United States policymakers "would have been well-advised to pay attention" to CIA reports. He did not elaborate.

A reporter asked whether the United States would be better off with a civilian ambassador in Saigon rather than retired Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor.

Russell replied that "Ambassador Taylor is well qualified."

"Some in the State Department think he talked too brusquely," the Senator added. "I'd be the last to criticize him for that. There are times when it is just as well to speak frankly."